

## Nine Thousand Miles for One Hundred Dollars

The summer following graduation from high school four friends, namely; Reamer Sewell, Robert Stein, William Richards, William Noland and I, decided we would take one hundred dollars each, pool it and go to California or at least see how far we could get and how long we could stay for a grand total of five hundred dollars.

Bucky Stein had a 1937 Plymouth sedan which we could use for transportation and to the rear of this we added a small one wheeled trailer for our luggage. We loaded the trailer down with two tents, a minimum amount of clothes for five boys consisting of a heavy sweater, jacket, heavy pants, two summer slacks and a sport coat, one pair of mocossins, and dress shoes, four shirts and underclothes for each. A camp stove, ax, five cots, blankets and cooking utensils completed our outfit and we were ready to start.

According to our plans we were going to buy food and cook our evening meal at camp sites and stay in our tents thereby avoid costs of lodging. The first night out we lived up to this plan, we pitched our tents started the stove and had a regular time of camping out. It only took us, inexperienced as we were, fifteen minutes to set up camp. The second night we decided we were too tired to put up the tents so we just rented a cabin, we used our own bedding to make it cheaper then bought our evening meal. All this was a mistake because since it was so much easier than putting up tents we never used them except in the parks we visited.

As in most trips of any length of time, there were times when we didn't do much of interest, therefore, I shall only include



only the highlights.

One night in Wyoming we again decided to use the tents and spend an evening in the open of the "Wild West." Everything went along fine until about three in the morning when the wind began to sweep across the prairies and blew our tents from over our heads. We had to get up in the freezing cold (middle of July) and rescue our equipment and start on our way again.

We visited "Hell's Half Acre" and finally entered Yellowstone Park in Montana just six days after we had started. Here we had our first car trouble. The battery went dead and we had to get a new one. According to our per day expenses we were now in the red so we stayed in Yellowstone four enjoyable days living economically to bring up our average. Here we fished, looked over the scenic wonders such as Old Faithful, the Lone Star Geyser, the bears, the abundant wild life and the falls. Before we left we mounted a huge pair of antlers on the front of the car and purchased ten gallon hats.

Our next lengthy stop was Seattle, Washington but before we arrived in Seattle we saw that greatest of mans works the "Grand Coulee Dam" in construction. In Seattle we had to lay over to have our clothes laundered. To pass the time away we took an excursion steamer throughout the many water ways of Seattle, and then to make sure that we didn't miss anything we flew all over the city by plane, thanks to the cousin of Buzz Sewell.

After leaving Seattle we stopped for a night in Portland, Oregon at the home of Buzz's relatives before driving all night to San Francisco. Because of the heavy trailer our speed was limited to seventy miles per hour maximum in spite of perfectly straight four lane highways. The chief interest at San Francisco was the

Fair. While not as pretensive as the New York World's Fair, it was even more beautiful.

Yosemite Park was our next stop. We put our tents up beside the stream of ice cold water which flows through Yosemite Valley. Our stay was made more pleasant here by a multitude of people our own age from the high schools and colleges of Los Angeles and San Francisco. We attended dances, saw Mirror Lake, El Capitan the thirty-seven hundred foot cliff from which they push red hot coals every night at nine. The flaming embers make a fiery falls when viewed from below.

Before we left we analyzed our financial standing, found it reasonably adequate, our tires inadequate and our generator absolutely defunct. We nursed the car to Los Angeles where we got a new generator and two new tires.

We made our Los Angeles headquarters in an orange grove belonging to an uncle of Buzz. This very adequately took care of breakfast worries. In our five day stay in the land of sunshine and movie stars we branched out to Catalina Island, Tijuana, Mexico and San Diego. The boat trip to Catalina was very enjoyable. We saw the porpoises and flying fish that are so famous in those waters. Unless you have a lot of money, bathing is Catalina's biggest attraction.

After making sure that we had seen everything in Los Angeles including Hollywood, a movie premier, Malibu Beach, Beverly Hills and Mount Wilson, we left for the East with a lot behind us including our money.

On the way back our course went through the painted desert, Grand Canyon and Denver, Colorado. Eighty miles west of St.



Louis our lonely trailer tire gave up which was not at all bad for it had to travel twice as far since it was only half as large. The only place such tires could be obtained was St. Louis so the better part of a day was used in going to and from that city, loading and unloading the trailer and putting the new tire on.

Five Five weeks after we had started we pulled back into our home town of Cumberland very proud that we didn't have to write for more money. Our friends couldn't believe we had been gone so long or had gone so far.

E. James Scott